

UK adds 13 research projects

EACH GETS \$10,000 FROM PRESIDENT'S FUNDS

By Art Jester
A.JESTER@HERALD-LEADER.COM

The University of Kentucky has added 13 research projects to combat quality-of-life issues that UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. calls the "Kentucky uglies."

If you go UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. and Provost Kumble Subbaswamy will host a reception to recognize the new Commonwealth Collaboratives researchers at 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Lexmark Public Room, Main Building, UK. Free and open to the public.

Officially named the Commonwealth Collaboratives, each project will get \$10,000 from Todd's discretionary fund in addition to funding they have from other sources.

In a release on Wednesday, Todd said: "What I love about the Commonwealth Collaboratives is that it is a perfect example of what a Top 20 research university should be doing for its state. Our top professors and researchers actively engage in Kentucky's toughest problems, looking to find solutions and answers that will help make the commonwealth a healthier, wealthier and better educated state."

UK announced 23 other Commonwealth Collaboratives in 2005. The 13 new projects and the researchers are:

Health:

- Clean Indoor Air Initiative; Ellen Hahn, College of Nursing. Get more Kentucky communities to approve smoke-free policies to reduce secondhand tobacco smoke and radon, which can cause cancer.
- Health Care Needs of Offenders at Community Reentry from Prison; Michelle Staton-Tindall, College of Social Work, in collaboration with the Center for Drug and Alcohol Research. Develop innovative methods to help former state prison inmates from relapsing into illegal drug use and thus risking new prison terms.
- Mount Sterling Health Initiative; Robert McKnight, College of Public Health. Improve health and wellness of Hispanic workers and families in Montgomery County.
- Oral Infections and Their Effect on Medical Management of type 2 diabetes mellitus; Robert Kovarik, College of Dentistry. Improve patients' oral health to reduce health complications from diabetes.
- Rural Medication Management; David Nau, College of Pharmacy. Help health care providers in Southeastern Kentucky improve monitoring of high-risk patients' use of medicine.

Education:

- Johnson Elementary School Project; Elsie Stines, Jamshed Kanga and Thomas Young, College of Medicine. Reduce obesity among Johnson Elementary students by encouraging exercise, healthy snacks and changes in behavior; also seeks to increase diagnosis and treatment of asthma, a leading cause of school absenteeism.
- Kentucky Early Childhood Data System; Beth Rous and Caroline Gooden, Human Development Institute. Developing a way of assessing learning in early childhood to help develop individualized intervention in the classroom; also increasing minorities' interest in health care careers.
- UK BEST (Building Engineering, Science and Technology). Deborah Besser, College of Engineering. A two-week on-campus program for rising high school juniors to stimulate greater interest among African American, Hispanic and Asian youngsters in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the so-called STEM fields.

Economic development:

- Advanced Manufacturing Partnership; Robert Gregory, Center for Manufacturing and Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Increase Kentucky's involvement in new fields, such as biotechnology and nanotechnology, as part of regional economic development.
- Kentucky Marketmaker; Steve Isaacs, College of Agriculture. Collaboration among the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Allied Food Marketers to create a Web-based interactive tool to link the state's food producers with food processors and marketers to increase sales and markets.

Environment/natural resources:

- Model Ordinance for Guidance on Development on Karst Land; James Currens, Kentucky Geological Survey. Develop a model city ordinance governing the development of karst land, which has sinkholes, sinking streams, caves and springs.
- Land Use Planning; Brian Lee, College of Agriculture. Landscape architecture students' projects to help communities develop land-use plans to manage growth.

Culture/quality of life:

- Kentucky Repertory Theatre Horse Cave Concert Series; Ben Arnold, College of Fine Arts. UK student and faculty musicians will bring live classical, jazz and Broadway musical performances to the theater at Horse Cave.

For more information, go to www.uky.edu/UE/CC.

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Reach Art Jester at (859) 231-3489 or 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3489.